

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 17, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-32 and 34-43 are currently pending in the application, with claims 1, 14, 23, 29, and 37 being independent claims. Claims 29 and 36 are amended and claim 33 is cancelled, in accordance with the above amendments.


The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-28 and 37-43. In the Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over the Shingo or Radley-Smith referneces. In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 33-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent claim format.

In response to the rejection, the Applicant has amended independent claim 29 to substantially incorporate the recitation of claim 33. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 29 is allowable, and that claims 30-32 and 34-36 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in a condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the rejections be withdrawn and that this application now be allowed.

This Amendment is being timely filed by facsimile transmission on July 16, 2004. Should additional fees or an extension of time be deemed necessary for consideration of this Amendment, such fees or extension are hereby requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account number 19-0733 for the payment of the requisite fee. If anything further is desirable to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned representative at (503) 425-6800.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Byron S. Kuzara
Registration No. 51,255

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.
1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Telephone: (202) 824-3000
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